coaching of students for various competitive examinations for Group A, Group B services and Entrance Examinations to professional courses. Funds to the State Government could not be released during the year 2002-2003 for want of Utilization Certificate for the grant released in the previous years.

However, the Government of India has released Rs. 28.20 Lacs during the year 2002-03 for imparting remedial coaching to Scheduled Castes students studying in class IXth to XIIth under the Scheme of Upgradation of Merit of Scheduled Caste Students.

Adoption of juvenile children

2582. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, the Juvenile Justice Board or the Child Welfare Commission is responsible and authorized to place orphaned, abandoned, neglected and abused children for adoption before eligible parents; and

(b) whether Hindu parents are duly eligible to adopt children under the abovesaid Act without attracting violation of any provisions of Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) According to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, the Juvenile Justice Board shall be empowered to give orphaned, abandoned, neglected and abused children in adoption. The Child Welfare Committee is required to declare the child legally free for placement in the case of abandoned children before adoption.

(b) The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 is silent on religion. Hindu parents may adopt under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 or the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956.